

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 010329
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AGRE-00 EB-08 SSO-00 USIE-00
AID-05 IO-13 COME-00 TRSE-00 /042 R

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USDA: JRIESZ (SUB)
EB/BP JBOYLE (SUB)
EUR:

-----011559 132325Z /75

O 132302Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL WINNIPEG IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:FAGR, ETRD, PFOR

SUBJECT:INTERFERENCE WITH TRANSBOUNDARY CATTLE TRADE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A TEXT OF A CANADIAN NOTE LEFT AT THE
DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 10:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE CANADIAN EMBASSY PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND WISHES TO ADVISE
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CONCERNS OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
WITH RESPECT TO THE EXPORT OF CANADIAN LIVE CATTLE TO THE
UNITED STATES.

AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, UNITED STATES' FARMERS HAVE
SINCE JANUARY 3 MAINTAINED PICKETS AT THREE BORDER CROSS-
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ING POINTS IN NORTH DAKOTA. THE EFFECT OF THIS PICKETING
HAS BEEN TO PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF CANADIAN LIVE CATTLE
THROUGH THE BORDER POINTS IN QUESTION. IN THESE CIRCUM-
STANCES UNITED STATES BUYERS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT
TO PURCHASE LIVESTOCK FROM NEIGHBOURING CANADIAN MARKETS.
AS A CONSEQUENCE, THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE IN PRICES ON
THESE MARKETS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT CANADIAN
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS HAVE THEMSELVES EXPERIENCED

DEPRESSED PRICES WHICH HAVE MOTIVATED UNITED STATES
PRODUCERS HAVE NOT SO FAR CONSIDERED SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST
USA AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO CANADA.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT
THE PICKETS WOULD BE REMOVED ON JANUARY 6 THEY ARE STILL
BEING MAINTAINED. ACCORDINGLY, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
REQUESTS THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES TO TAKE, AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REMOVE THIS
CONTINUING IMPEDIMENT TO NORMAL CANADIAN EXPORTS THROUGH
NORTH DAKOTA BORDER CROSSING POINTS.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.

3. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION WITH THE CANADIAN EMBASSY
OFFICIALS, WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE SHARED GOC CONCERN AND
WERE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH STATE AUTHORITIES AND THE US
ATTORNEYS IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA. WE POINTED OUT
THAT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAD NO BASIS TO INTERVENE
DIRECTLY SINCE NO EVIDENCE EXISTED THAT FEDERAL STATUTE HAD
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BEEN VIOLATED. WE HAD SOUGHT AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT
LOCAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES WOULD PROVIDE SECURITY TO
ENSURE THAT TRUCKS CARRYING CANADIAN CATTLE COULD PROCEED
TO US DESTINATIONS. FURTHERMORE, FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION
CAREFULLY.

4. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE OPENED QUESTIONS REGARDING
EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSURE SECURITY OF
CANADIAN CATTLE SHIPMENTS. WE ARE, THEREFORE, CONTINUING
TO WORK WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND INTERESTED WASHINGTON
AGENCIES TO RESOLVE PROBLEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, CATTLE, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE010329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GMONROE:ISS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780021-0259
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780164/aaaaccax.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e11cfce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3775965
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERFERENCE WITH TRANSBOUNDARY CATTLE TRADE
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PDIP, PBOR, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e11cfce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014